AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes sir. Most of the waste disposal systems in use in different cities and towns of the country are not satisfactory and are responsible for environmental pollution.

(b) and (c) Solid Waste Management is a State Subject. It is an obligatory function of the State Governments/Urban Local Bodies to plan, design, implement, operate and maintain solid waste management systems in the urban areas of the country. To streamline the management of solid wastes, the Government notified the draft Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999 in The Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II-Section 3—Sub-section (ii) on September 27, 1999 inviting suggestions and objections. A large number of suggestions and objections have been received.

**Environmental Pollution by Mining Operations**

1703. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mining operations in various parts of the country are responsible for environmental pollution as well as to flora and fauna; and

(b) if so, what remedial measures have been taken and are being contemplated for future by Government, to contain such harmful effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) The mining operations may cause environmental pollution as also may affect the flora and fauna, if environmental safeguards are not adopted.

(b) The Government has notified ambient air quality standards which are also applicable to mining activities. All mining projects of major minerals, with mining area of more than five hectares, are required to obtain environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

**Provision of Wireless sets to Forest Personnel in M.P.**

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

†1704. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to provide wireless sets to all the forest personnel of Madhya Pradesh for prevention of illegal lumbering of trees and protection from conflagration;

(b) if so, the number of wireless sets which have been provided;

(c) the number of cases of conflagration in Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99 and 1999-2000, together with the action taken by Government to prevent the same; and

(d) the arrangement made by Government for prevention of illegal lumbering of trees in the forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods assistance is provided to the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for capacity building for combating forest fires and wireless sets are provided to the forest personnel apart from other items. Under this scheme, financial assistance has been provided for purchase of 40 wireless sets during 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) Forest protection being state subject the information regarding cases of conflagration and illegal lumbering of trees is compiled by the state governments. However, as per the report of the state government of Madhya Pradesh during 1998-99 there were 123 incidents of forest fires. Major steps taken by the government to prevent cases of conflagration and illegal lumbering of trees in the forest include;

(i) Guidelines have been issued to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of forests under Joint Forest Management Programme.

(ii) States have been advised to strengthen the protection machinery.

(iii) A Centrally Sponsored Scheme Modern Forest Fire Control Methods

is being implemented for prevention and control of forest fires.

(iv) Special measures for protection and conservation of protected areas are being implemented.

(v) Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has been enacted to regulate diversion of forest land for non forestry activities.

**Expansion and Depletion of Forests**

†1705. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise detaifs of position regarding expansion/depletion of forests in the country during the last three years; and

(b) the budgetary-allocation made by Central Government during the last three years for setting up plants or making arrangements for the disposal of "Bio-Organ Waste Material" thrown by the hospitals togetherwith the State-wise amount of assistance provided for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) State-wise details of expansion or depletion of forest in the country as per State of Forest Report, 1995 and State of Forest Report, 1997 published by Forest Survey of India is given in the statement (*See* below)

(b) Budgetary allocation for hospital waste management by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of Central Government is made for Delhi only in last three years, details of which is as below:

| Year | Amount (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 40 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.